



ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS UPDATE

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IMMEDIATE NEEDS PROGRAM

USAID's Immediate Needs Program consists of labor-intensive cash-for-work projects that build or rehabilitate productive infrastructure, and income generation and training activities for vulnerable households. In Nangarhar and Laghman provinces, 10,350 workers are employed on a daily basis, with women accounting for 13% of the labor force. Currently, more than 81 projects have been completed and 59 are now underway. Nearly 1.18 million labor-days have been created since the programs inception. To date, the program in Nangarhar has cleaned 1,167 km of irrigation canals and constructed 20,750 cubic meters of flood protection walls. Unfortunately, the program in Helmand and Kandahar provinces has been suspended since May 19 due to security problems but is due to start up again soon.



COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

USAID's Comprehensive Development Program aims to accelerate sustainable economic growth in regions most affected by poppy production. This program focuses on agriculture, infrastructure, business growth and the provision of an economic safety net for vulnerable population's unable to benefit from the program's other activities. Plans are being finalized for a national seed and fertilizer program that is scheduled to begin in September. In Nangarhar and Laghman, comprehensive economic development activities such as fruit and orchard development are underway. In Helmand and Kandahar, activities are being planned to start as soon as the contractor's improved security arrangements are in place.



GOOD PERFORMER'S FUND

USAID's Good Performer's Fund supports sustainable economic development initiatives in provinces where there is commitment by leadership and communities to discourage poppy production and maintain a poppy-free province. USAID will fund highly visible public works projects in support of provinces that have demonstrated commitment to the CN effort. In Uruzgan, 41 tons of corn seed and 232 tons of fertilizer were distributed to 3,000 farmers as part of the Good Performers Program. In honor of this event, a ceremony chaired by the Governor and the Minister of Agriculture with Mission Director Patrick Fine in attendance, was held in the Uruzgan capital Tirin Kot on July 2, 2005. In Kunar, another good performer in the CN effort, \$5 million will be dedicated to cash-for-work projects that will commence in early August.



EXPANSION PROGRAM

In the remote province of Ghor, in western Afghanistan, a \$2 million road reconstruction project will begin in the next few months and is estimated to benefit 350,000 Afghans. In the northern province of Takhar, flood relief is underway and \$3-5 million will fund small-scale infrastructure rehabilitation through cash-for-work programs starting in early July.